

Intervention: Housing subsidy programs

Finding: Sufficient evidence for effectiveness

Potential partners to undertake the intervention:

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State public health departments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policymakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Background on the Intervention:

When affordable housing is unavailable to low-income households, family resources needed for food, medical or dental care, and other necessities are diverted to housing costs. Residential instability results as families are forced to move frequently, live in overcrowded conditions, or experience periods of homelessness. This instability is associated with children's poor attendance and performance in school, no primary source of medical care, lack of preventive health services, various medical conditions, sexual assault and violence. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 8 Housing Program provides low-income families with rental vouchers and promotes affordable housing.

Findings from the Systematic Reviews:

Based on systematic reviews conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Task Force on Community Preventive Services, researchers recommend housing subsidy programs for low-income families, which provide rental vouchers for use in the private housing market and allow families choice in residential location.

This recommendation is based on outcomes of improved neighborhood safety and families' reduced exposure to violence. For more information on housing subsidies, see the link below.

Limitations/Comments:

The effectiveness of voucher programs in improving youth health risk behaviors, mental health status, and physical health status could not be determined because too few studies of adequate design and execution reported these outcomes.

Additional Information:

[Guide to Community Preventive Services](http://www.thecommunityguide.org/social/default.htm) - <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/social/default.htm>

References:

Anderson L, St. Charles J, Fullilove M, Scrimshaw S, Fielding J, Normand J. Providing affordable family housing and reducing residential segregation by income: A systematic review. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 2003; 24(3S): 47-67.